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pitiful story, and it is. Although society in 1900 was immeasurably wealthier than in 1860, it is doubtful if life was nearly so attractive or enjoyable in Illinois in 1900 as in 1860. The argument or history is enforced by a mass of detail, but if I have read the story correctly, such is the significance of the volume. It is one of the best volumes of the series. The style is easy and clear. The political struggles are described in straightforward, unequivocal, fearless language. Such stories as the hay market riot, the election of Logan to the senate in 1885, the fiasco of the Liberal Republicans and social life in the seventies might justly be called literary.

L. E.

Collections of the Illinois Historical Library, Volume XIV.
Constitutional Series, Volume II. *The Constitutional Debates of 1847*. Edited with introduction and notes by ARTHUR CHARLES COLE, University of Illinois, Springfield, 1919, pp. xxx + 1018.

The making of constitutions may be called an American profession, for each state has a constitution and it is being constantly changed to meet new conditions and ideas. The debates of the second Illinois convention are typical. A reading of these debates will give a new appreciation of our national development.

In his preface to the volume, Mr. Cole points out the difficulty of obtaining reliable sources of information, that the delegates, working in an atmosphere of economy, retrenchment and reform, decided to forego official edition and content themselves with the newspaper versions. The author has reconstructed these debates from the newspapers. They were taken mostly from the tri-weekly *Illinois State Register*, a Whig newspaper, and supplemented in important omissions by items from the weekly edition of the same paper, and from the *Sangamo Journal*, a Democratic organ. These newspapers were partisan and often did not give space to opponents. Reporters and correspondents were not always prompt and often satisfied themselves with memoranda of the topic in discussion. Notwithstanding these conditions, the author has succeeded admirably in bringing the parts together in this volume.

One of the commendable features is the index, which is prepared for the practical use of the political science student. Its use is not limited, for the lover of history will find that it will point out the important current events of the time. The table of contents also contains helps in this respect. Another very attractive feature is the introduction, which sets out incidents of the time, showing the general trend of thought, the men that made up the delegation, questions of national import and party cleavage. The biographical sketches of the delegates in the appendix leads to important identifications.

On the whole, this book will be very helpful to other bodies similarly engaged. It makes no pretensions either to learning or to originality. For those who have not studied the subject of constitutions in the making, the book offers an excellent introduction to a fund of information which needs to be more widely disseminated.

R. G. SMITH

The Centennial History of Illinois, Volume I. The Illinois Country, 1673-1818. By CLARENCE WALWORTH ALVORD, University of Illinois, Springfield, 1920, pp. 524.

The plan of this series is co-operative, with an individual author for each of the five volumes. Mr. Alvord is the editor-in-chief of the series, a work worthy of the occasion which it commemorates.

The first volume is notable in many ways. We first get a delightful picture of the Illinois country as it looked when the Indians still ruled supreme within its limits. But, as the Illinois country was only a part of the vast Mississippi valley, the author has necessarily taken up the history of the conquest of the whole valley. The Illinois country, however, because of its location, through the long period of exploration and colonization, was the scene of constant struggle and change. Occasionally we are given glimpses of the real love and devotion which existed between the natives and invaders, as in the case of Marquette and LaSalle and many others. Mr. Alvord has traced the progress of the Illinois country from the time of the admirable work of these French missionaries through the periods of French and English occupation, the organization under the ordinance of 1787 until